DEWAN: I must enquire about that.

The question of reducing the price of coercive notices was fully discussed in the Legislative Council and the Government were compelled to accept the conclusion that no change in the present practice is possible.

Your criticism of jamabandi is right in a way; it is not a jamabandi as understood in the neighbouring Presidency in British India, for the simple reason that we do not have an annually changing assessment, but an assessment fixed for thirty years. But whatever may be the jamabandi so called elsewhere, in Travancore it is in reality an efficiency audit of the revenue officials.

You devoted a good deal of your time to the subject of agricultural operations and what you mean really is the introduction of more up-to-date methods of agriculture and encouragement. That is what the Department of Agriculture is striving to do. Your constructive criticism is that the State should be divided into two main agricultural divisions with units in each taluk or even pakuthi with officers who will look after ryots and instruct them in methods of agriculture. I am afraid it is a very large scheme. But sooner or later the question of a closer devotion to the needs of agriculture must be brought about. I have no doubt that your suggestions, which will be on record in the proceedings of this Assembly, will receive consideration when that time comes.

You have heard what I had to say on the subject of cottage industries a little while ago. Also it seems to me that the Government and you think alike upon the present methods of co-operative societies here. And whether it will be possible to stop their credit operations is a very difficult problem to say. We generally ask the department to do societies a good turn and try and infuse into them more methods of operating than mere money-lending.

The ryots' roads rules require amending and I am inclined to agree with you that before a ryots' road is cut it should be properly aligned by experts.

**142. Economic development.**

MR. JACOB CURIAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that any one who cared to make a perusal of the subjects taken up for representation at the present session of the Assembly had reason for immense gratification. Last year in replying to the representation of a member, the Dewan exhorted the members of the Assembly to eliminate from their representations the chorus of 'my community' 'my community'. He asked them instead to take up the burden of 'my country' 'my country'. That exhortation born of the true spirit of patriotism was faithfully accepted by the members, and as was evident from their representations they had devoted themselves this year solely to subjects relating to the economic and industrial advancement of the country. The Dewan's opening address to the Assembly was conceived in the same spirit and it gave ample proof of the earnestness with which Government were applying themselves to problems of economic regeneration.

Coming to the subject the member said that Travancore, though a thoroughly agricultural country, could not produce her own food materials. She had to depend largely on Burma rice. That was a deplorable state of affairs. The country should be able to produce all the paddy and rice necessary for the consumption of her people. With a view to attaining this object, all the lands in the hills and along the back waters available for cultivation should be assigned to cultivators. As the result of similar representations in former sessions of the Assembly, Government had already sanctioned the assignment of swampy areas in Forest Reserves. But the areas which were actually assigned for cultivation seldom exceeded 50 or 60 acres in each taluk. It was like the mountain labouring and producing a mouse. That kind of close-fistedness in the assignment of public lands should go by the board. Every inch of cultivable land anywhere in the mountains or in the plains should be given away for paddy cultivation.

The next thing necessary for the development of paddy cultivation was the provision of proper means of irrigation. Numerous instances there were of the output of paddy from a field being enormously increased by the opening of a canal or a tank for irrigation. In the Mavelikara taluk itself a canal was recently opened under

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the personal orders of the Dewan. The canal cost only about Rs. 1,500 or 2,000. But the result of the construction of the canal was that the produce of paddy in the neighbouring field increased by 10,000 paras per year.

Thirdly, in order to develop agriculture, Government should pay close attention to the popularisation of scientific manures and also to the issue of agricultural loans.

Another thing that was necessary for the economic development of the State was the construction of the Quilon-Ernacolam railway. There were people who held the view that motor vehicles could easily take the place of the railway for the purpose of traffic. But it was at best only for passenger traffic that motor vehicles could be used. Railways were best fitted for goods traffic. The people of northern and central Travancore were eagerly looking forward to see the railway opened and even the postponement of the work till the completion of the Chakay-Tampanur line had caused them grave disappointment. To them their prosperity and the prosperity of their children depended on the opening up of the country by this railway.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Jacob Curian, you have with your customary eloquence dealt with one remarkable feature which would have struck everybody who has been attending this Assembly and that is the complete absence of any feeling indicative of communal cleavages or sectarian rivalries. In this, the Assembly has proved itself a true representative of Travancore. The countryside has come here to-day hundredstrong. The countryside here in its representations has represented nothing more clearly, nothing more truly than the tranquillity which prevails all over Travancore at the present moment.

You have, it is abundantly clear, made a very close study of railways in relation to motor transport and I hope that some day the fulfilment of your ambition will be an accomplished fact.

You dealt very fully and strongly with the needs of the country producing its own requirements in rice. Whether that will be ever possible remains to be seen. All that we can do is, as the Agricultural Department endeavours, to increase the out-put per acre and improve the quality ; I and the Government can but try to make areas suitable for paddy cultivation available in such greater degree as the country can yield. For one thing, you know, that the question of throwing open the Mannankandam swampy areas to rice cultivation originated with my predecessor and a most excellent idea it was. By constructing the Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road, I hope that in a short time a good deal of acreage of paddy lands will be available for the people of Travancore. Similarly we shall endeavour to find speedier methods of throwing open swampy areas and forests which are suitable for paddy cultivation.

I have spoken about minor irrigation several times already.

**143. Some public needs.**

MR. MALUK MAHOMED ABDUL KHADIR (*Member, Municipal Council, Attingal*) spoke first on the question of the currency in Travancore. It was well-known that there were two kinds of currency in Travancore, one Sirkar and the other British, and neither was complete in itself. As regards the Sirkar currency, the highest coin *viz.*, the rupee existed only in imagination. As regards the British currency, the lowest coins *viz.* the half anna, pie etc. were not legal tender in Travancore. Not only that the conversion of the British currency into the Sirkar currency was very difficult. The equivalent of the British rupee was 28 chackrams and 8 cash, of the British half rupee 14 chackrams and 4 cash, and of the British quarter rupee 7 chackrams and 2 cash. The man who wanted to change the British half rupee and quarter rupee had certainly to lose 4 cash in the one case and 2 cash in the other. Then again all payments to the Sirkar had to be made in Sirkar currency. But for want of the Sirkar rupee, payments could be made only in British rupees, and when the British rupees were paid, the parties seldom got back the balance half-chackram per rupee. In order to get round these inconveniences, the member suggested either the abolition of the Sirkar currency and the introduction of the British currency in its entirety or the establishment of an easy rate of commutation of Sirkar currency into British currency.

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